

August 16, 1965

Mr. G. A. Derbyshire
Space Science Board
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear George:

I am enclosing some material that I would appreciate your bringing to the attention of Harry Hess in connection with his possible testimony before Senate Committees. Mr. Coleman had called me about this.

I would particularly point out the small memorandum labelled "ABL-Automated Biological Laboratory" which presents a position somewhat more vehement than the one that was formally adopted by the Summer Study last year. However, I hope that the force of the argument on the first page still appears in the Committee report also. Because it is rather vehement, I would prefer that this not be available for publication in its present form.

I am also enclosing a letter To The Editor which you may have seen in the form of a news story by Walter Sullivan in the New York Times a few days ago. While I suppose I should be grateful to Sullivan for giving this point of view the wider play that it received by being on the news wire, I still would rather he had left it in the form I intended, namely, as a letter To The Editor in response to the editorial which The Times had written earlier. I suppose it is no accident that Sullivan's story makes no reference to the implied criticism of the editorial which was the underlining motive for my letter. However, I can really hardly complain about the accuracy with which his story presented my views. I think it was really very unfortunate that there should have been such a hasty appraisal of the significance of the craters on Mars since it will undoubtedly lead to a gross distortion of the picture. The issue surely is not humanoids versus no life at all.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Enclosure